

The Holy Ghost “Shall Teach You All Things”

John 14:23-27,

Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2015

Sermon Text, John 14:23-27 (KJV):

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Beloved of the Lord.....Today is Pentecost Sunday, when we remember that sacred day in the early Christian Church, where the disciples were gathered together after the ascension, and “suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” On Pentecost the Holy Spirit poured out upon the disciples special gifts, namely the ability to speak a foreign language. Our Lord gave these disciples this great ability, so they could preach the Gospel to the Jews who were there that day from “every nation under heaven.” We know these disciples began to preach God’s Word in different languages because the Bible says, these Jews from other countries were confused, “because that every man heard them speak in his own language.” They knew the disciples were Galileans, but they were speaking their native tongue. These Jews also said, “we do hear them speak in our languages the wonderful works of God!” They were truly excited to hear the wonderful works of Jesus!

Pentecost then is about how the Holy Ghost poured out His Spirit upon the people by Gospel preaching because “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” Many were born again that day, converted, by the preaching of God’s Word. On Pentecost also we emphasize the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Ghost, because He is both the Comforter and the Teacher of the Christian faith. When we take time out of our busy life to sit down and read our Bible or a sermon, or have a devotion, we are sitting at the feet of our divine Teacher, the Holy Ghost, and the Holy Ghost is teaching us Law and Gospel. The Law shows us our sins and the Gospel shows us our Savior. “Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.” Those who neglect God’s Word will not be blessed, but those who read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Scriptures will be blessed and strengthened by the Spirit of God Himself. If then you want to grow in the Christian faith, mature and ripen and be fruitful in God’s kingdom, you must keep God’s Words before your eyes, and meditate upon it in your heart. But if you neglect God’s Word because you love the world, you will dry up and wither like a

vine with no water and you will fall away because you don't keep God's Word in your heart. Don't let the words of your Teacher go in one ear and out the other, but pray and focus so the words of the Spirit will stop and rest upon your heart. This is why Peter said to Jesus, "Lord to whom shall we go, Thou hast the words of eternal life!" This same Peter also said concerning God's Word, "The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." How blessed we are then today that the Holy Spirit has been poured out upon us also by the Gospel Word which came to us at baptism and still comes to us today by Gospel preaching. As Jesus promised His disciples long ago, so His promise still holds true today, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

One of the teachings now of the Holy Ghost is this:

I. In the Holy Christian Church, the True Church, Love and Obedience go hand in hand. This is why Jesus said, "If a man love Me He will keep My words" and "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." Let none of us then be pretend Christians, or false Christians, or hypocrites, so that we say "I can do whatever I want and God doesn't care if I sin, because I am forgiven." That is not love for Christ but it is hatred of Christ. To see His sacrificial love so evident and revealed by the cross, and then to take that love and use it as a license to sin, is not godly love but a devilish love. Such a person who loves sin and willfully continues in a sinful live cannot love Christ at all, but they are yet a prisoner of the devil and sin. The man who loves sin cannot love Christ, but Christians love Christ and hate sin. This by no means... means we do not sin any longer....we do....yet "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." We experience true grief of heart over such sins, yet we still know by faith that this sin also is forgiven, and we pray God will help us amend our sinful ways.

This work of amending our sinful ways, and doing good, and keeping God's commandments, and loving our neighbor as self, is the blessed work of the Holy Spirit within you. When you love Jesus, you will indeed keep His commandments. You will guard your mouth from filthy language. You will not lie to your neighbor nor deceive, nor will you brag about your works, but you will give glory to God. You will keep yourself from evil and strive to do good. You will go to church to hear His Word, rather than skip church by loving this world. You will honor your father and mother. You will also forgive your neighbor and not bear a grudge, and you will desire as Christ desires, that all men be saved. So it is written of the Christian life in Galatians five, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." May God's Spirit help us to do so! Amen!

Moving on, Christ now says, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Note now the connection between loving Jesus, keeping His commandments, keeping His

Word, and the coming of the Father and the Son to such a person. Naturally let us first understand that in each believing heart, all three persons of the Trinity already live, for Jesus said “behold the kingdom of God is within you!” Indeed the Triune God personally lives in each believer, not just in spirit, but in essence. We are thus the temple of the living God and Jesus said, “abide in Me and I in you.” Yet it is also true the Father and the Son still come to us today, whenever we hear God’s Word, especially the Gospel, for by this coming He renews us and gives us strength. The same is true of the Holy Spirit. This is why on Pentecost we sing, “Come O come Thou quickening Spirit, God from all eternity!” Verse seven says: Holy Spirit, strong and mighty, Thou who makest all things new, Make Thy work within us perfect, and the evil Foe subdue. Grant us weapons for the strife, and with victory crown our life. If then you feel weak and weary as a Christian, or you are struggling with unbelief or you are depressed, you must keep the Gospel Word before your eyes, upon your ears, and in your heart, and don’t forget to pray! “CREATE in me a clean heart O God; and RENEW a right spirit within me!” For “they that wait upon the LORD shall RENEW THEIR STRENGTH; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” By this then we also see:

II. The Holy Ghost proceeds from both the Father and the Son, and He is the true Teacher of the Gospel. Focusing now on the words of Jesus, He said, “These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things...” Regarding the Holy Spirit Himself, we learn that He is sent by both the Father and the Son to us, to comfort us. Thus the work of the Father in creation is done, and the work of the Son in redemption is finished, but the blessed work of the Holy Ghost is still on-going and going on in this world, for wherever the saving Gospel of Jesus is preached and taught, there the Holy Spirit sounds forth like a trumpet, declaring to a fallen world forgiveness of sins, not with gold or silver, “But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” Thus because the Father and Son both together desire our salvation, they together send forth their Spirit, and this is also why we pray in the Nicene Creed, “I believe in the Holy Ghost, THE LORD AND GIVER OF LIFE, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets.” Thus when you were baptized as a little baby, or if you came to faith later in life by the preaching of the Gospel, this is when you were called by the Holy Ghost, and this is when you became a believer. This wasn’t by works of righteousness which you have done, but your salvation came according to God’s mercy, “by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Thus of the Holy Ghost Jesus also said, “He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” As you live then daily in this world, what will happen to you is this: by your sins and the sins of the world, and by the devil’s temptations you will experience doubt and worry. You may even wonder if you are a true Christian, as all Christians doubt from time to time. But out of nowhere a

passage or verse from Scripture will come to mind, and inwardly by the power of God's Word you will experience relief. This happened to me just this week, as I have been (shamefully) filled with the cares and worries of this world. But when I sat down with my wife and daughter to have an evening devotion, my troubled heart relaxed and I found peace, peace in Christ. This is because the Comforter came to me and gave me peace through the Word we read in our devotion. So Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Throughout our life this happens to us over and over again. We lose sight of Christ, or because we rest our eyes on the vanities of this world, He disappears far away, and it is our own fault. But God who is rich in mercies does not then cast us away, but He gives us trials and tribulations. He stirs up the waters for a purpose, He sends the storm, but it is only we again realize how much we need Him. Then when His spirit moves us we return and come again to His Word. We sit down and open our Bibles, or we go to church and hear the Spirit speaking, "Peace, be still" and "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid!" And how many times in life have we been in various trying situations, when suddenly a passage or verse came to mind, which helps to set us straight, so do the right thing, or find the perfect passage which comforts? Such is the blessed work of the Holy Spirit, "for the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say." He "shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

Beloved of the Lord, let us therefore rejoice in how the Holy Spirit is working daily in our lives, and by faith in our heart. Just as Jesus is with us always, even unto the end of the world, so it the Spirit with us always, sent by both the Father and the Son. Today we especially rejoice He brings "all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Jesus is our peace! Therefore "Let not your heart be troubled". Amen.